REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action dated November 12, 2004, Applicant has, by the foregoing amendments, canceled claims 9, 10 and 21-23, amended claims 1, 2, 8, 11, 18 and 19, and added new claims 24 and 25 for consideration by the examiner. Accordingly, remaining in the application is independent claim 1 with its dependent claims 5-7; independent claim 2 with its dependent claims 3 and 4; independent claim 8 with its dependent claims 11-17; independent claim 18 with its dependent claims 24 and 25; and independent claim 19 with its dependent claim 20.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 2-4, 10, 11, 19 and 20 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 2 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form and are allowable along with their respective dependent claims 3-4 and 20. Additionally, claim 8 has been amended to include the elements recited in dependent claims 9 and 10 and, thus, is allowable along with its dependent claims 11-17.

Affirmation of Election

The Office Action asserts that claims 1-20 and claims 21-23 are directed to distinct inventions and requires Applicant to elect one of the two claim sets for prosecution in the present application. A provisional election of claims 1-20 was made by Applicant's attorney during a telephone conference with the examiner, prior to issuance of the present Office Action. Applicant hereby affirms this election and has canceled claims 21-23 directed to the non-elected invention. However, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 21-23 in a divisional application.

In the Drawings

The Office Action indicates that the drawings are objected to because cross hatching is missing from FIGURES 1 and 2. Additionally, the Office Action indicates that the disclosure is objected to asserting that arrow 108A recited on page 9 of the application is not illustrated in the drawings. Submitted herewith are annotated drawing sheets with proposed changes shown in red ink for approval by the examiner. Additionally, replacement sheets for each of the original drawing sheets are included.

Rejections on the Art

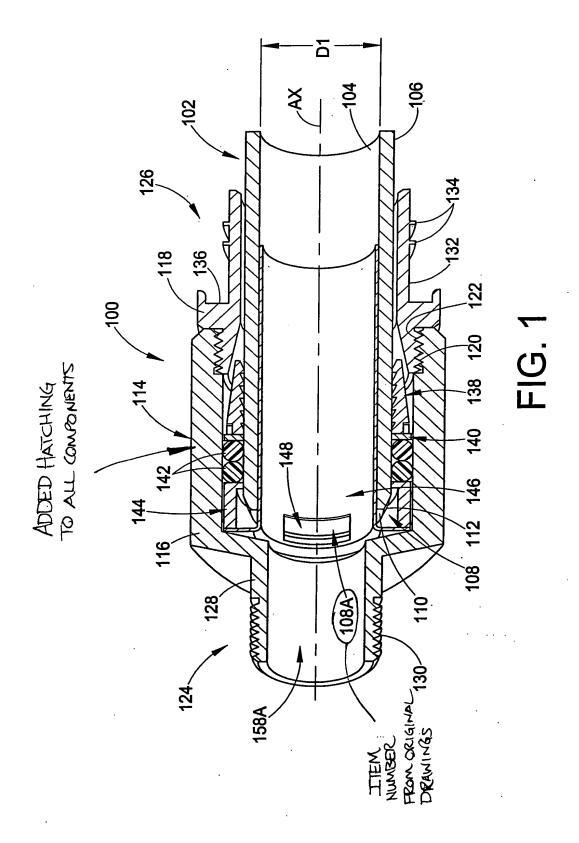
The Office Action indicates that claims 1, 5-9 and 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,142,538 to Volgstadt, et al. In light of the foregoing amendments, only claims 1, 5-7, 18 and 24-25 remain for substantive consideration in the application. Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to recite a visual indicator not taught or suggested by Volgstadt. Accordingly, the remaining claims, as presently amended, define over Volgstadt and are allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments and discussion are fully responsive to the latest Office Action, and that the claims are in proper form and distinguish over the prior art for the reasons stated. Having addressed all of the outstanding objections and/or rejections, the subject application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early notice of allowability is earnestly solicited.



Appln. No. 10/749,826 Amdt. Dated November 30, 2004 Reply to Office Action of November 11, 2004 Annotated Replacement Sheet



Appln. No. 10/749,826 Amdt. Dated November 30, 2004 Reply to Office Action of November 11, 2004 Annotated Replacement Sheet

